

THE DAILY JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1901.

Telephone Calls (Old and New)

Business Office, 225 E. Editorial Room, 230

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

By Carrier—Indianapolis and Suburbs.
Daily, Sunday included, 40 cents per month.
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Entered as second-class matter at Indianapolis, Ind., postoffice.

THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL.

Can be found at the following places:
NEW YORK—Astor House and Fifth Avenue Hotel.
CHICAGO—Palmer House, P. O. News Co., 217 Dearborn street.
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The House bill to create county boards of education, which failed in that body on Thursday by a single vote, should be enacted when it again comes up.

There are those who use the phrase "good politics" in derision, but, rightly considered, "good politics" means the support of proper and necessary measures.

The observing man who walked about the Statehouse yesterday afternoon must have felt that a halt had been called to the grafting schemes. It was in the air.

Let us see: \$420,000 for the Senate grafts already allocated, \$600,000 for public libraries, \$40,000 for the Agricultural Society—total, \$1,460,000 in five grafts carried as proposed in the Senate.

It is due to Senator Wood, of Tippecanoe, to say that in the printing of the names of the minority of Republicans in the Senate would voted with all the Democrats for the Vincennes bill his name was omitted.

The Republican committee of St. Louis has provided for primaries in which Republicans can vote direct for their candidates for city offices. The Republicans of Indianapolis who desire the best things in municipal affairs desire the same privilege.

The next "moral claim" that will haunt the Statehouse is that of the contractor who constructed that building. He was out several hundred thousand dollars. It has been asserted, which constitutes, on the part of the State, by the Vincennes precedent, a moral obligation.

The taking of \$40,000 from the State treasury, as proposed by a bill presented in the Senate on Thursday, to purchase land for the Indiana Agricultural Society, is as barefaced a proposition in the line of robbing the people as has ever been offered. The State has no so much control over that society as it has over the railroad corporations. The State pays it now more than it should. The request should be rejected at once, despite the lobby urging the matter in the Senate.

A professor of the University of Pennsylvania is urging the acceptance of Indian corn as the national flower, and among other merits points out its decorative possibilities as illustrated, for example, in the silver time. If we were to go through with the nonsense of adopting an official "national flower," certainly nothing more genuinely national could be found than corn—a native plant, beautiful and distinctive in leaf and blossom, and important as the great agricultural staple of the country. Also its decorative qualities are beyond question, but the silver time is not a good illustration of them. By the way, did you know, before reading this, that the dime had a corn decoration, or on looking at it would you be quite sure without being told that the design is corn and not wheat or some other plant?

The supporters of the Muncie Normal School bill dropped the jocular and swaggering air of triumph which characterized them, Thursday afternoon, when Lieutenant Governor Gilbert ruled that their bill, which passed the Senate by all the Democratic and a minority of Republican votes, had no standing in the Senate because it contained a provision for raising an annual revenue which must originate in the House. On this point the Constitution says:

"Bills may originate in either house, but no bill for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

The Lieutenant Governor is clearly right, and in raising the point against the bill discharged his duty and the requirements of his oath of office, which reads: "You swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Indiana," etc. His action stands out in bold and clear relief in contrast with that of the men who have combined in support of three questionable measures. The makers of the combination confessed their questionable character when they dared not trust their schemes upon their individual merits.

The killing of the anti-trust bill in the House, Thursday, is justified by examination of the measure, and the attempt to attribute its killing to Republicans because a Democrat proposed it is a bit of demagoguery. As Mr. Reser said, the bill, if a law, would drive wholesale grocers out of business, because it forbids them to contract with alleged trusts to take their goods and sell them at a given price. Wholesale grocers would find it exceedingly difficult to deal in sugar, since the most of the stock is controlled and sold by the American Refining Company. The same is true in some measure of tobacco and other staple articles. The competition in sugar refining has given low prices the past year because a small outfit of competitors can affect the price, yet most dealers depend upon the

"trust" for their supply and find it to their advantage to accept its conditions. It would be destructive of trade in Indiana to make it unlawful to make such contracts. If any company is in this State trying to enhance prices or is attempting to drive competitors out of business by piratical methods a law should be provided for its punishment. But because a wholesale grocer makes a contract to purchase his sugar of a trust at a price as low as others sell, it should not be made a misdemeanor.

THE GRAFTING PROCESS.

Indiana has been behind several States in the adoption of what is called the "grafting" process; that is, the connecting of as many boards, commissions, institutions, etc., as possible with the State treasury, to the end that all the excellent and enterprising people who can attach themselves to these boards, etc., or become beneficiaries of the State, may draw their sustenance from the revenues paid by the people.

Indiana has kept itself measurably free from this grafting industry. It has a few boards which attempt to keep things in order, but we have escaped the barbers' examining board, the stationary engine inspectors, the board to license stationary engineers at \$2 per engineer, and the like. We have escaped the evil of establishing all sorts of inspectors for all sorts of things which have begun to be a grievous burden in several States. The grafting industry has proceeded so far in Illinois, says the Chicago Times-Herald, that an army of useless and worse than useless officials draw more than two million dollars from the people annually, for most of which no real service is rendered. In New York the process of grafting upon the people's taxables has gone so far that Governor Odell has called a halt and has marked a score or more of boards and institutions for death, saving the State more than a million dollars.

But if those who are besetting this Legislature get all they are after, the Indiana grafters will be numerous. Those who are interested should take one of the Senate and House calendars and note all the measures designed to attach persons more or less permanently upon the treasury or to take from the treasury a lump sum, under one pretext or another. Should all these schemes carry they would cost the State two million dollars within one year. These schemes embrace several boards to inspect or examine somebody, to force men to pay a toll for the privilege of following occupations they have engaged in for years. Several new boards or officials are proposed for the State, for which there is no use except to the limited number of men who would attach themselves to the State treasury.

Already three schemes have been successful in the Senate—the Vincennes University claim of \$120,000, the Columbus epileptic village \$200,000, and the Muncie Normal School with \$100,000 at the outset and a perpetual levy that will afford from \$60,000 to \$70,000 to say nothing of extras. If the Muncie scheme is fastened upon the State treasury, the next Legislature will be asked for \$100,000 or \$150,000 for buildings. These two Senate schemes, carried by all the Democrats and a minority of the Republicans, mean an expenditure of a million dollars in five years. Then there is the proposed inebriate asylum, a new deaf and dumb institute, a proposition to make a levy for libraries which will take \$800,000 the first year and \$100,000 a year thereafter. The Agricultural Society demands \$42,380, which its lobby is urging. But why attempt to enumerate when time and space are limited?

The question is: Shall the Legislature of Indiana launch out upon schemes which will permanently increase the expenditures of the State by hundreds of thousands a year? The solid Democratic side of the Senate and a minority of the Republicans have declared for grafting. What has the House to say?

A PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

The drift of intelligent public sentiment in this and other States is decidedly in favor of primary election laws for the nomination of candidates. The best sentiment in both parties favors such laws as a matter of justice to all classes of voters and of practical reform. The Journal has been and is in favor of a judicious law on the subject of uniform operation throughout the State, but if that cannot be had at present it favors such a law for Marion county. In some counties the primary election method of nominating has been used for years, and it ought to be made a matter of local option for all counties. This is done by the bill which has passed the House. This is decidedly a better bill than the one introduced by Senator Joss, because it is better calculated to cure the evils complained of in the present system of primary and nominating conventions. The object of any legislation on the subject should be to remedy existing evils or alleged evils. One of these is that the average voter, business men, professional men and others who take no active interest in politics voting their convictions as well as they can by forming a party ticket, have no voice in framing the party. One of the main objects of a primary election law should be to give them a voice. The bill which has passed the House does this much better than the Joss bill does. The House bill underwent careful scrutiny, section by section, by a meeting of the citizens of Indianapolis, and after discussion by representatives of both parties was adopted as the framework of a good practical law. The amendments made by the House left its main features untouched, but restricted its compulsory operation to this city and county. In that form it should pass. The conditions in this county are somewhat different from those in the State at large, and if the Legislature is not willing to pass a primary election law of general operation, it should at least give Marion county what it wants. If any bill on the subject is to be passed at this session it should be the House bill.

MAURICE THOMPSON.

In the death of Maurice Thompson Indiana loses a man who won for himself literary distinction of an uncommon sort and reflected corresponding credit upon his State. The word "literary" is very much overworked in these days of universal dabbling with paper and ink pots, but in its original and best sense it was applicable to Mr. Thompson. He was truly a man of letters—a student by natural taste, a scholar of unusual acquirements, a writer because the love of literature impelled him. He lived the ideal literary life, a rare thing even among the innumerable company of those who write. He was known but little in social life; he shunned clubs

and crowds and the rush and breathlessness of metropolitan existence; preferring instead the retirement of a quiet home in a quiet street, with freedom to wander when he chose nature's haunts, which he loved better than the mart of men. It is the result of this mode of life, this mingling of the out-of-doors, that gives his verses and his essays their peculiar charm. That he was poet first of all no one who has considered his work carefully can doubt. Had he followed his natural taste perhaps he would have written verse only, but having formally adopted the profession of literature, he found it necessary, as do the members of other professions, to undertake tasks not always entirely congenial. Certain signs indicate that at first he found the writing of prose not altogether easy. Later came grace, facility and such command of his themes that to many readers his essays and out-of-door sketches gave even greater pleasure than his verse. He was not a "born" story writer. His earlier novels, though having sufficient plot and incident, a technical correctness and frequent happy touches, lack the indescribable something that wins popular favor. But determination and perseverance overcame even this difficulty, and his "Alice of Old Vincennes" has gained the approval of even jaded novel readers, and is a valuable addition to current literature.

He was an indefatigable worker, and his career is an example to the aspirant for literary fame. He had, no doubt, as many rebuffs in his early days as other ambitious but unknown writers—in fact, he has admitted as much—but he was not discouraged. When the publishers did not want his verse he wrote essays or sketches; when they did not want these he wrote novels, then returned to verse again. Finally, merit, sustained by persistence, won; his reputation began to grow, and the time came when publishers solicited his favor, not he theirs. Always he did good, conscientious work, without flinching or carelessness, and he had his reward.

Mr. Thompson's death is untimely; he was not yet an old man. He had not yet ceased to grow in a literary sense, as his latest books prove, and had he lived he might have added further to his laurels and to the pleasure and enjoyment of the public. But it is a gratifying thought that his last days were cheered by the popular success of his latest novel, and by the praises of the critics.

The passing of this writer, this good citizen, is cause for sorrow. He loved Indiana; his achievements have gone far to give it that intellectual standing for which, as a community, it is becoming known, and as time goes by his name will, it seems likely, take even a higher place than now in his State's roll of fame.

SPEECH BY EDWARD VII

OFFICERS AND MEN OF STRATHCONA'S HORSE WELCOMED.

Each Presented with a Medal and Graciously Greeted by the British Monarch and His Queen.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—King Edward, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, to-day inspected at Buckingham Palace the 22nd officers and men of Strathcona's Horse. His Majesty presented the regiment with the King's color and gave medals to the men. A detachment of guards held the lawn of the west terrace and the Canadians were drawn up in front of the terrace. The company present included Earl Roberts, who was in full uniform, General Buller, the Duke of Devonshire, the Chamberlain, the secretary of state for the colonies, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, who organized Strathcona's Horse, and many army and court officers. The royal standard was hoisted over the palace as the King, wearing a field marshal's uniform, and the Queen, in deep mourning, appeared on the terrace accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Prince Charles of Denmark and the Duke of Cambridge. His Majesty shook hands with Earl Roberts and General Buller and the band of the Coldstream Guards played "God Save the King." Col. Samuel B. Steele, of Strathcona's Horse, was presented to King Edward, who proceeded to inspect the regiment. Returning to the terrace, the King handed a medal to Colonel Steele. Then the officers and men filed past a table, the King presenting each of them with a medal.

The King's colors were brought by an escort of the regiment to the foot of the steps and his Majesty presented it to the Canadian cavalrymen saying it was the colors of his mother and the colors of the regiment and he now did so in her name and in his own. The colors were borne to the King by the Duke of Devonshire, who presented them to the King. "God Save the King." Afterwards the Canadians marched past, and the King, accompanied by Lord Strathcona, presented the troops as follows:

Col. Steele, of Strathcona's Horse, presented officers and privates—I welcome you here to our shores on your return from active service in South Africa. I know you have been the urgent wish of my beloved mother, our revered Queen, to welcome you home to the shores of your native land. I am sure you will be glad to be assured she deeply appreciated the services you have rendered, as I do. I feel sure that the King and the Queen will be glad to have you home, and that you will always defend it and do your duty as you have done so bravely in South Africa and will do so on all future occasions. I am glad Lord Strathcona is with you today, as it is the first time he has seen you since he left for the front. I can only hope your short sojourn here will be a pleasant one, and that you will return safely to your homes, friends and relatives. Be assured that neither I nor the British nation forget the valuable service you have rendered in South Africa.

Colonel Steele, thanking the King in behalf of the regiment, assured him that the people of Canada would always do as well as Strathcona's Horse, if not better, and added that they were always ready to defend the flag, the King and the rights of the British empire. The King then presented the King's officers were presented to his Majesty, who shook hands with and thanked each of them.

The colors presented to Strathcona's Horse is a silver standard with a silver eagle on top, and a silver eagle on the pole. The colors were presented to the King by the Duke of Devonshire.

Decorations Bestowed by Edward.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—It is announced that King Edward has bestowed the following decorations on the officers and men of Strathcona's Horse: Prince Christian, of Denmark, receives the honorary grand cross of the Victorian Order, and Prince Louis, of Battenberg, and the Duke of Argyll and the Duke of Devonshire, who was private secretary to Queen Victoria; Sir Francis Knollys, the private secretary of the King; and Lord Pelham-Clinton, who was master of the Queen's household, receive the grand cross of the Victorian Order. Numerous other honors are distributed to lesser personages.

Asphyxiated by Natural Gas.

CANTON, O., Feb. 15.—Edward Grimm, 34, of this city, was asphyxiated by natural gas, and died, his wife, two children and his wife's sister are unconscious.

He lived the ideal literary life, a rare thing even among the innumerable company of those who write. He was known but little in social life; he shunned clubs

CIVIL AFFAIRS.

PRESIDENT GILBERT'S RULING ON MUNCIE NORMAL BILL.

He Declares that It Was Improperly Before the Senate and Its Passage Was Not Legal.

MUST COME FROM HOUSE FIRST.

IT IS NOT THOUGHT THE BILL CAN PASS THAT BODY.

Buffalo Exposition Bill Indefinitely Postponed—Printing Bill in the Senate—The Day's Work.

The most startling event in the State Legislature yesterday took place in the Senate. It was in the shape of a ruling made by Lieutenant Governor Gilbert, which nullifies the action of the Senate on the Muncie normal bill. Mr. Gilbert's ruling is to the effect that the bill was not properly before the Senate. The only way in which the bill can come up again is through the House, and it is understood that the legislative effort will be made to kill the measure there.

The House spent an unusually busy day, passing several bills and receiving a great number of committee reports. The report of the railroad committee indefinitely postponed the 2-cent fare bill introduced by Representative Louttit. Mr. Neal's bill providing for cheaper railroad fares was successful in passing the House. It will require railroad companies to keep 500-mile mileage tickets on sale for \$10. The House was not kindly disposed toward the Pan-American bill, and declined to concur in the majority report of the committee on ways and means. This report recommended that the bill be passed, cutting down the \$300,000 appropriation to \$25,000. The minority report, which was passed, recommended that the bill be passed, and this report was adopted. The bill provided for an Indiana exhibit at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo.

Yesterday afternoon Senator Thompson's bill for a county school fund was advanced to third reading in the House after being amended in minor points. There was an intellectual attempt made to kill the bill.

SENSATION IN THE SENATE.

President Gilbert Knocks Out Muncie Normal Bill—The Printing Bill.

President Gilbert made a ruling yesterday afternoon in which he held that the bill providing for a state normal school at Muncie, which was passed by the Senate on Thursday, had never been properly before the Senate.

The decision is regarded as one of the most important that has been made in the Indiana Legislature for years, as, if his position in the matter is correct, it may be the means of nullifying not only a large part of the legislation enacted by this session, but of invalidating many of the laws which have been passed since the statute books by former legislatures.

President Gilbert bases his decision on Section 7, Article 4, of the State Constitution, which provides that bills may originate in either body of the General Assembly, "except that bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

The bill had already passed the House, and provided not only for an appropriation of \$400,000 per annum for the use and maintenance of the school, but it further provided "that for the further maintenance of said normal school there shall be levied upon taxable property of the State in the year 1901, and each year thereafter, for the purpose of raising revenue, a tax of one-tenth of one per cent, and the same shall be levied and collected in the same manner and by the same parties as the tax on the State of Indiana, and the same shall be paid into the treasury of the State of Indiana in like manner as other taxes are levied, assessed, collected and paid."

It was a surprise, and when the senators had had time to appreciate its import and its far-reaching effect, if sustained, doubt and consternation were to be seen depicted upon the faces of all.

The credit of the decision made by the President of the Senate, in regard to the matter of the appropriation for the Muncie school had been troubling him for some days, as he believed that a large portion of the people of the State were not favorable to the measure. While at lunch yesterday afternoon, he was discussing the matter with the members of the Senate, and he was told that the bill had never been properly before the Senate.

There was a great deal of discussion, but he made arrangements with Speaker Arntman to send it back, and he returned to the Senate yesterday afternoon, by a plan which had been prearranged, Senator Dausman, who had introduced the bill, was asked to withdraw it, and he did so.

When the Senate had somewhat recovered its usual order of tranquillity, rumors began to float around the lobby that Speaker Arntman had introduced the bill in the Senate and had informed President Gilbert of it, but President Gilbert denied it, and upon being asked as to the reasons which led him to the ruling said that the matter of this appropriation has been giving him a great deal of concern for a number of days, as he felt that a large portion, at least, of the people of the State were not favorable to the measure, and that, while the bill had passed the House, it was not, in his opinion, a proper measure to be taken by the Senate, and he felt that it was his duty to declare that it had not been properly before the Senate, and he felt that it was his duty to declare that it had not been properly before the Senate.

On motion of Mr. James his bill, No. 57, concerning free gravel roads, was not brought up, but was postponed for one week.

STATE LIBRARY BILL.

Mr. Mummett's state library bill passed the House by a vote of 70 to 4. The bill increases the salary of the state librarian from \$1,500 to \$1,800 and provides for a revision of the rules governing the library.

One of the rules now provides that only the officers and the judges of the Supreme and Appellate courts may take books from the library. Mr. Mummett's idea is to revise this rule so that where there is more than one volume of a work, the public libraries may be allowed to take books from the library.

House bill No. 42, by Mr. Roberts, of Jefferson, to prevent people from erecting

without stating his reason therefor, although he was entirely familiar with the proposition which was about to be declared by the chair. Mr. Gilbert further stated that although he was not a member of the order well taken, and feels quite confident that he is right in so ruling, that he has yet had opportunity to consult with the authorities and is perfectly willing that any senator should be heard who claims to have been injured by the ruling, but he has erred in his ruling will unhesitatingly reverse the decision which he made.

BILLS ON THIRD READING.

The greater part of the afternoon session was taken up with bills on third reading. A number of important measures were passed, among them being Senator Wolcott's bill, which prevents the discharge of waste water and refuse of manufacturing plants into streams of water. There was scarcely any debate on any of the bills called up. Senator Day's bill, requiring that persons to take out a hunter's license, was made a special order of business for Monday morning.

New bills were presented in the morning at the opening of the session, swelling the aggregate number of bills of this body to 21. The primary of the bill introduced by Senator Joss was one of those introduced yesterday. It was referred to the committee on the bill, and it is expected that it will probably be reported upon next week. The provisions embodied in this bill are in accordance with the bill introduced in this issue.

Senate bills on third reading were the next order of business for the afternoon session. Number were called up. The bill by Senator Minor, which prohibits county school superintendents from holding office in conducting normal schools of any character, met with favor and was passed with little or no discussion.

Senator Ogborn's school fund bill aroused much interest and before it came to a vote there was a spirited discussion in which several senators participated. The bill provides that when school funds in any county of the State shall accumulate to the sum of \$5,000 or more, the county auditor must notify the state auditor of the existing condition, and the state auditor has the power to transfer this fund to any other county that may demand it. It appears that in some counties the school funds are unable to loan all of their school funds while in other counties the funds for loans of the school funds are greater than can be accommodated. The bill by Senator Ogborn makes it possible for the county auditor to loan school funds to be loaned. In addition to this, the bill provides that the interest on such loans may be paid at the rate of 5 per cent. Senator Heller introduced four amendments to the bill, only one of which found favor. Section 11 of the bill provides that in all cases of mortgages for loans shall be paid out of the interest on the funds from which such loan is made. The bill provides that the bill Senator Heller made his first attack and his motion to strike out Section 11 of the bill was defeated. The bill, after being amended, was passed by a vote of 20 to 10.

Senator Goodwin's bill authorizing the issuance of bonds to complete unfinished school buildings, and the bill by Senator Paul, which empowers the county auditor to construct school buildings, were both passed by a vote of 20 to 10.

WOOD'S PRINTING BILL.

The calling up of Senator Wood's printing bill (No. 129) precipitated the most heated discussion of the day. The bill provided that the boards of trustees of the various state institutions shall be authorized and empowered to let their own printing contracts, thus abolishing the office of the state printer.

Senator Wood's bill was passed by a vote of 20 to 10. The bill provided that the boards of trustees of the various state institutions shall be authorized and empowered to let their own printing contracts, thus abolishing the office of the state printer.

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